

Facecrime and new bassist.

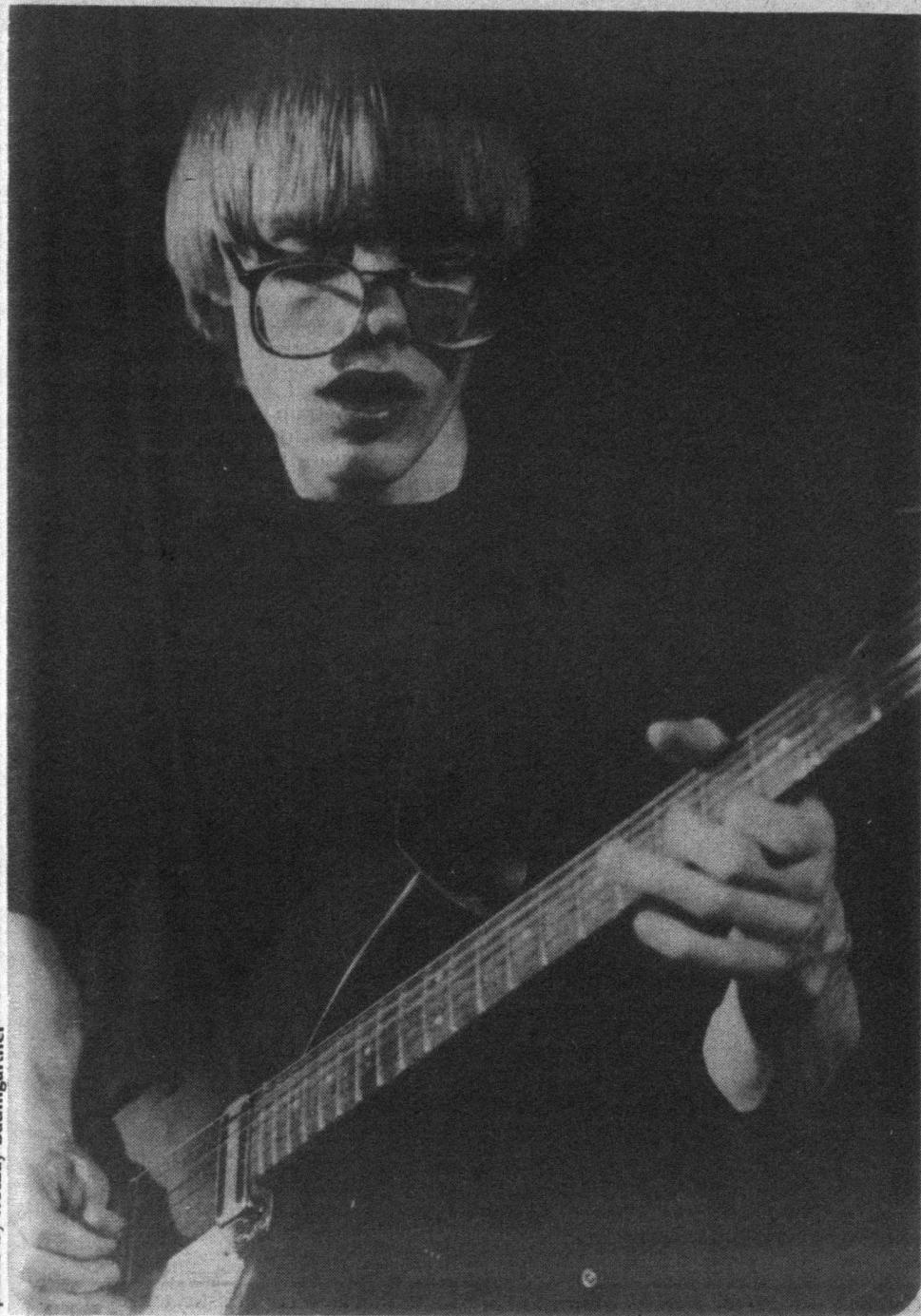


photo by Rossey Baumgartner

Moe Berg: I was aiming at the National Enquirer mentality. People love reading about the slimy aspects of human nature. They're more interested in looking at a car accident than a Mona Lisa. Instead of reading a great book, they want to read

about how some movie star got caught with his pants down. Elvis or Joan Crawford or Peter Sellers or anybody else I mention in the song - I'm not denying that they may have had personal problems. But the kind of mentality that embraces those books is a

sad comment on modern life. After all, for all of Elvis' excesses, he still made more people happy than Albert Goldman ever will. I'm interested in what's great about mankind, not what defects it has. Society's preoccupation with slime is fairly sobering.

Gateway: You've been writing more political songs lately. You have a song called 'Make the Rich Pay'. I know it's not a socialist song....

Moe Berg: That song is entirely satirical. I don't think the rich should pay. Emphatically. The song is basically along the lines of 'My Favorite Books'. There is a growing hatred for rich people. The song talks about someone who invents a machine that makes people's lives better, but as soon as he starts making a lot of money off it, people start hating him and telling him he's obscene. It's that intense hatred of anything good or great that people seem to have these days. If someone can do something well and we need that person - that doesn't make that person our property. It mentions doctors in the song. Doctors are public property now. People feel like they can order them around, tell them how much money they can make, how they can treat people. I personally would never become a doctor because I'm not a slave to society. That's what doctors are becoming.

Gateway: 'My Favorite Books' and 'Make the Rich Pay' both got a lot of airplay on CJSR. But K97, CKRA, 630 CHED - they hardly play local alternative bands at all. Do you think that the Westwatch album is going to change that?

Moe Berg: I have no way of knowing. The only way we'll be played is if one of those stations consciously decides to support the local music scene. Some of the material will probably be primitively recorded. That may be one hinderance. Another is that they may not like the music. They may feel that they don't have to play it when they have records by established artists. The Westwatch album deserves to be played. All the music on the record that I've heard is good.

Gateway: What do you think of the alternative music scene in Edmonton right now?

Moe Berg: It's quite good. There are quite a few bands where there haven't been before. A lot of times I was involved in one of the 2 or 3 serious bands in the city. Now there are dozens. The fact that there's a compilation coming out with 12 bands on it (The Westwatch album) says something.

Gateway: Are there a lot of places for alternative bands to play in Edmonton?

Moe Berg: There are a surprising number of places to play although there is no one place to play. There's no place where you can say "this is where an alternative band can go." Sometimes you can play at places and sometimes you can't.

Gateway: Any last words about the Edmonton music scene?

I personally would never become a doctor because I'm not a slave to society.

Moe Berg: A lot of bands — just as much alternative bands — have a totally outrageous concept of success. I don't understand it. I get asked "What are you going to do to make yourself successful?" I feel that I'm already successful. The fact that I don't play Madison Square Gardens doesn't mean that I'm not successful, I'm a songwriter and all I have to do is write good songs and then I'm a good songwriter. I'm a performer and all I have to do is play. When we've got a good band together, we're a good band.

So many bands place their entire lives in other people's hands. Most people think "What do I have to do to be successful?" They say, "I have to play guitar this way and we have to have this kind of material if we want to be big."

If you define your success as people liking you, you could write the world's greatest song and be in the world's greatest band, but if no one bought the song or listened to the band, you'd be a failure.

We'd have a lot better music in Edmonton and the whole music situation would be a lot healthier if bands were more concerned with just being a good band and being good songwriters instead of being a "success".

Public taste - I wouldn't say it's at a very high level right now. But I think a lot of the blame can rest on the bands that pander to it. And public taste can be swayed! A lot of bands who actually are good have made it. You don't have to be trashy, you don't have to operate on the crassest possible level to make it.

CABARET
DINWOODIE
2nd Floor SUB

Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd Floor SUB) and various club members.
NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests.
Absolutely no minors admitted.

Education Students' Association presents
Friday, March 4; 8 p.m.

Beach Party
come make waves with us
featuring
The Blue Prints
The Shades

Sweet Leilani's Dancers

Costume Contests & Prizes
Tickets at ESA office & S.U.B.

AIESEC presents
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from Calgary

QWEST



Theta Chi Fraternity presents

Saturday, March 5;
8 p.m.

Slash and the Bleeding Hearts

Theta Chi Fraternity presents

Saturday, March 5;
8 p.m.

U of A Womens' Centre presents

from
Toronto

Saturday, March 12;
8 p.m.

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